



The Cliff Communiqué

April 2017, Issue 48



Notes from the chair

“Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more” is a popular quote from Shakespeare's Henry V. That is how I feel on being your Chairman for the third time since becoming a member of Cliff Villages U3A some 11 years ago.

Picking up the baton after Rosemary King's year of tenure and leading a committee with four new faces, is an exciting prospect. Next year one of them may well be taking on the position of Chairman.

Undoubtedly there is a buzz from being given this responsibility again on your behalf. There is always much to do: contacts from outside agencies to deal with, bringing information to committee and ensuring that the wider membership gets to know what is going on.

Our membership is now at its highest ever level of 165, with a waiting list of 8 provisionals, while we are receiving enquiries for membership on a weekly basis. As I write there has just been another phone call. This is all good news.

2016 has seen the formation of two new groups: Circle Dancing and at long last a Bridge group. Both have been well received.

Lurking in the background are the bureaucrats at our Head Office who want to make managing the now 1000 U3As more complicated and costly to run, when essentially all we want to do is to have fun with good friends, in a safe and social setting.

Best wishes to you all,

Mick Rampton

The Committee 2017/18

Chair	Mick Rampton
Vice Chair	Clive Morrison
Welfare	Ray Pritchard
Treasurer	Rita Bateman
Membership	Mick Rampton
Business Sec	David Shaddick
Speaker Finder	Pat Ingall
Convenor Coordinator	Glenys Gage
Technical Advisor	Clive Morrison
Minute Sec	Rosemary King
	Terry Gilmore
	Kay Parker

Group News, compiled by the Convenor unless stated otherwise.

Armchair Travel

Convenor: Peggy Marshall 01522 720641 peggymarshall264@gmail.com

We meet at Harmston Memorial Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10.00 am start. There are a few changes to the original programme.

May 10 th	Outing to Gunby Hall. (National Trust) Ring Peggy for seat availability
June 14 th	Pat and Mick: Moscow and St Petersburg
July 12 th	Pat and Mick: Madeira (Unfortunately Mr Day is moving away so Pat and Mick are kindly stepping in)
August	NO MEETING
September 13 th	Peggy Marshall: Italian Gardens and Villas
October 11 th	Pat and Gerry: The Azores and Island Hopping
November 8 th	Sandra and Roy: Macedonia and Montenegro
December 13 th	PARTY TIME

Bird Watching

Convenor: Ross Thomson 01522 720590 chris.noboys@virgin.net

Visit to Freiston Shore and Frampton Marsh March 15th 2017

What a glorious day. The sun was shining out from a clear blue sky and there were myriads of birds. What more could a bird watching group want, except, perhaps a really special sighting. There were nine of us, all eager to go. There was constant hilarity as we tried to make out varieties of birds not immediately recognisable.

We began the day at Freiston Shore and then went on to Frampton Marsh. Our first spot was, according to the photographer with an immense lens, a Red Crested Firecrest. The problem, later, was that I could not find a Red Crested Firecrest. The closest answer seemed to be that it was male with a deep orange stripe on its head. Any advance on that? Still, it caused some excitement. It is the smallest British bird and was a winter visitor here. A very lively little bird, holding our attention as it flitted busily through the hedgerows.

A good day, but don't mention the Satnav.

So, the birds seen at **Freiston** were:

Oyster Catcher	Swan	Black Headed Gull
Brent Goose	Turnstone	
Golden Eye	Tufted Duck	Wigeon
Little Grebe	Shelduck	Mallard
Knot	Redshank	
Jackdaw	Starling	Firecrest
Seen at Frampton:		
Greenfinch	Goldfinch	Dunnock
Chaffinch	Blue Tit	
Coot	Great Crested Grebe	Shoveler
Ringed Plover	Ruff	Teal
Greylag	Canada Goose	Dark Bellied Brent Goose
Avocet	Egret	Spotted Redshank
Godwit		
Skylark (heard but not seen)	Marsh Harrier (uncertain, but very likely)	

John Healey

Craft Group

Convenor: Rosemary King 01522 721187 aking4@toucansurf.com

A small Craft Group will have had its first meeting by now on April 6th. Finding a date suitable for the 7 members has been almost impossible BUT eventually Thursday mornings were decided upon. This clashes with Walks but after our first meeting to discuss further dates, I hope to organize Thursday mornings on a floating basis to accommodate as many members as possible.

The aim is to share our various skills. These may range from specialized painting, to paper craft, box making, collage etc. It is possible we may invite other specialisms from outside the group or the U3A to demonstrate a particular craft.

Flower Group

Convenor: Rosemary King 01522 721187 aking4@toucansurf.com

This new group, with 8 members, meets on the 3rd Tuesday afternoon of the month. We all love flowers but seldom have time to make arrangements for our own homes, so this group gives us the opportunity to enjoy working with flowers and have a good chat at the same time. We enjoy seasonal blooms and try to be minimalistic, using single colours, variegated leaves or dry arrangements. Easter and Christmas give us plenty of scope and on October 7th and 8th we will be offering a display of Dutch Contemporary Flower Art for the Harmston Floral Festival. Working together, snipping away, we really get to know each other. This is what U3A is all about. Friendship, company and laughter....plus learning new skills.

Games Group

Convenors: Kenny and Yvonne Moir. 01522 720770 goldmoir@aol.com

The Games Group has concluded for the summer break, restarting in October. The past 6 months have simply flown by, with record attendances and everyone enjoying themselves. It has been very encouraging to have some of the newer members joining us. See you all in October.

Garden Group

Convenor: Rosemary King 01522 721187 aking4@toucansurf.com

Programme for 2017

May 2nd Nina McBeath has agreed to let us see her spring/early summer garden in Welbourn. Turn right at the 2nd Welbourn entrance and her house is the 3rd gateway on the left. Car sharing if possible as it is village street parking. Nina will give us tips on cuttings and plant splitting. We will meet at 10.30am.

June 6th We will meet at the home of Lis Ross, Blacksmith's House, 26 Lincoln Road, Branston, LN4 1PA at 10.30am. 01522 822618. Car-sharing, as parking is at the Village Hall, LN4 1PA, or on the road (very limited). The theme is HOSTAS so bring potted splits for swapping and/or interesting leaf colours.

July 4th Summer Roses, with tips on pest control and pruning, at June Mundy's, 79 High Street, Navenby, LN5 0ET. 01522 810558. We will meet at 10.30am. Parking opposite June's house at Odling's, but car sharing advised. June has room for 3 cars.

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Garden Group Programme, continued from previous page

August 1st Meet at Howard and Gillian Martin's, 95 Hollywell Road, Waddington, LN5 9BZ, 015222 827576, at 10.30am. We will study the Martins' unique pond and special plants. At 11.15am we will move down to Anne Cant's garden, 62 Hollywell Road, Waddington, LN5 9DA, 01522 721571. We will see Anne's reconstructed garden and have coffee there.

September 5th An autumn visit to Aubourn Hall. Arrangements will be sent out in due course. An advance booking fee is usually required.

October 3rd We hope to potter down to the Lincoln Allotments again. I will contact Fred nearer the time.

Historical Topics

Convenor: Bob Goodman 01522811325 goodman628@btinternet.com

Programme 2017 – 2018

April 28 th	"The Finale of the Life of Byron" Peggy Marshall
May 26 th	"Cameo Day" Members to present a 10 minute cameo on a topic of their choice.
June 23 rd	"Maid of Honour" Peggy Marshall
July 28 th	More of "On the Buses" Ken Burton
August 25 th	We hope to organize a visit to the Chadwick Centre, Bomber Command, but this visit is still under consideration
September 22 nd	TBA
October 27 th	"Thrones!" John Healey
November 24 th	"Casanova" Anne Mitchum
December 22 nd	No meeting
January 26 th	"69 th South Lincolnshire Regiment of Foot" Mary Cook
February 23 rd	AGM and planning meeting for 2018/2019

Industrial Heritage

Convenors: Pat Thomas 01522 887546 pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com

David Raines 01522 810843 davidraines290@btinternet.com

The group now meets in the large hall at Redwood Drive Community Centre, Brant Road, Waddington and we have space to accommodate new members.

In January group member Rob Hadfield told us about the ten different roles from engineering apprentice to computer expert that he that he held during his 35 years with British Airways.

The February talk by group member Mike Willerton was postponed as on the day he was escorting his wife Hilary in her role as Sheriff of Lincoln. Mike will now entertain us in November. Our motto is 'We live to Learn' and this was certainly the case with the substituted film on 'The History of Electricity'. It is much more than activating a switch to light a bulb, and if some of the advanced theory was mind stretching we all gained a greater knowledge of the discovery and development of electricity.

The March film on the building of the Shanghai Tower was a more familiar and amusing format, with examples of historic engineering and the most up to date building techniques used in this structure that was completed in 2015. At the date of filming it was the second highest building in Asia.

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Industrial Heritage, continued from the previous page

Meeting at Redwood Drive Community Centre 10am – 12 noon

April 21st Film, 'The Maglev Train' (Magnetic Levitation – floats above the rail)

Visits

May 19th Lincolnshire Roadworks Laboratory - am 15 places - pm 15 places
June 16th Lincoln University Forensics Laboratory - 20 places - £10 charge
July 21st Ketton Cement Works near Stamford - Car share
August No visit or meeting
September 15th Thorne's Beekeeping Equipment Factory at Market Rasen

The lists for these visits were at the March meeting and will be at the April meeting. Where visits are over-subscribed, priority will be given to speakers, the support team who help run the group and to members who have been most loyal over the winter months. There may be reserve lists as it is not always possible to commit with certainty for several months ahead.

Those with places on the visits will be contacted with details nearer the time. Please ensure that telephone numbers and email addresses as given on membership applications last December are current, and respond to messages that I leave on answer phones. I will not be available until after April 10th when I may be contacted on 01522 887546 or at pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com

Meetings at Redwood Drive Community Centre 10am – 12 noon

October 20th Film, 'What Destroyed The Hindenberg Airship'
(previously scheduled for March)
November 17th Mike Willerton, Loco Construction Ancient and Modern
(previously scheduled for February)

Short Walks

Convenors: Kenny and Yvonne Moir 01522 720770 goldmoir@aol.com

We could not have had a better start to our 2017 walks. On the best day of the year so far, we had 25 members walking at Hartsholme Park, followed by bacon butties at the café there.

Our walks are usually over 3 miles and taken at a steady pace, so why not come and join us? We meet on the third Wednesday of the month, at 10.00am.

Bridge Group

Convenor: David Shaddick 01522 802128 david.shaddick@live.co.uk

The newly formed bridge group meets on a weekly basis on Wednesday afternoons from 2.00pm until 4.30pm at different members' houses. We are a very informal group and we change playing partners each week (beware serious and experienced players). We are happy to introduce beginners into our small but merry throng.

Group	Convenor	Tel	Email	Day	Time	Venue
Armchair travel	Peggy Marshall	01522720641	peggymarshall264@gmail.com	2 nd Wed	10.00am	Harmston MH
Art	David Raines, Arthur Hazeldine	01522810843 01522720387	davidraines290@btinternet.com arthurhazeldine@gmail.com	Every Mon	10.00am	Redwood CC
Art and Craft Work	Rosemary King	01522721187	aking4@toucansurf.com	Thursdays to suit	Afternoon	
Bird Watching	Ross Thomson	01522720590	chris.noboy@gmail.com	2 nd Wed	Various	Various
Book Review	Patsy Pate	01522751795	patsypate111@btinternet.com	2 nd Tues	Various	Various
Bridge	David Shaddick	01522802128	david.shaddick@live.co.uk	Every Wednesday	2.00pm	Various
Church Architecture	Bob Alder	01522810093	alder.jandb7@btinternet.com	Various	Various	Various
Circle Dancing	Terry Gilmore	01522729074	terryg935@gmail.com	1 st Tues	1.45pm	Redwood CC
Classical Music	Glenys Gage	01522880179	glenysgage@hotmail.com	2 nd Thurs	2.00pm	Waddington
Computer Security	Rob Hadfield	07858606202	robert.1.hadfield@talk21.com	2 nd Thurs	10.00am	Redwood CC
Flower Arranging	Rosemary King	01522721187	aking4@toucansurf.com	3 rd Tues	2.00pm	Harmston
Food, Glorious Food	Rosemary King	01522721187	aking4@toucansurf.com	1 st Fri	10.00am	Various
French (Heath U3A)	Adrian Peill	01522821729		Every Tues	10.00am	Waddington
Games and Social Afternoon	Yvonne and Kenny Moir	01522720770	goldmoir@aol.com	3 rd Wed	2.00pm	Harmston MH
Gardening	Rosemary King	01522721187	aking4@toucansurf.com	1 st Tues	10.30am	Various
Historical Topics	Bob Goodman	01522811325	goodman628@btinternet.com	4 th Fri	10.00am	Harmston MH
Industrial Heritage	Pat Thomas David Raines	01522887546 01522810843	pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com davidraines290@btinternet.com	3 rd Fri	10.00am	Redwood CC
Kurling	Howard Martin	01522827576	howardmartin@ntlworld.com	Alt Tues	10.00am	Wellingore VH
Quiz Group (Lincoln U3A)	Keith Stocks	01522682489		1 st Mon	10.00am	Bracebridge Community Centre
Long Walks	Contact:Mick Rampton	01522874746	m.rampton35@yahoo.com	1 st Thurs	10.00am	Various
Mahjong	Rosemary King	01522721187	aking4@toucansurf.com	Every Thurs	2.00pm	Various
Massage Workshop	Mick Rampton	01522874746	m.rampton35@yahoo.com	Alt Mon	2.00pm	Redwood CC
Needlecraft	Pat Thomas	01522887546	pat.thomas1@ntlworld.com	4 th Fri	2.00pm	Waddington
Parchment	Jill Alder	01522810093	alder.jandb7@btinternet.com	1 st Wed	10.00am	Metheringham
Pub Lunches	Barbara York	01522720633		4 th Thurs	Various	Various
Scrabble	Rosemary King	01522721187	aking4@toucansurf.com	1 st Wed 4 th Wed	10.00am 2.00pm	Various
Short Walks	Yvonne and Kenny Moir	01522720770	goldmoir@aol.com	3 rd Wed	10.00am	Various
Spanish	David Shaddick	01522802128	david.shaddick@live.co.uk	2 nd & 4 th Tues	10.30am	Waddington
Sugarcraft	Pat Rampton	01522874746	prampton1803@gmail.com	1 st Wed	2.00pm	Waddington
Sugarcraft for Beginners	Pat Rampton	01522874746	prampton1803@gnmail.com	1 st Wed	10.00am	Waddington
Ten Pin Bowling	David Raines	01522810843	davidraines290@btinternet.com	Alt Tues	1.30pm	Lincoln Bowl Washingborough Road, Lincoln

And finally....

When driving along the ridge from Harmston to Bracebridge Heath we are afforded some spectacular views across the Trent valley.

Very noticeable are the two remaining power stations of Cottam and West Burton. There was another at High Marnham but this has now been demolished.

Having worked at Cottam for 23 years I was one day moved to write a poem about them.

I would like to share it with you.

Power

They stand along the horizon like ships on an earthen sea,

Silently they generate the power for you and me.

The power you take for granted, the power that's always there,

Enough to drive our factories or light a darkened stair.

Just get a little closer, all is not so serene,

For within those vast cathedral-like halls, tortured metal screams.

Burning nature's fossil fuel hewn from beneath the sod,

To appease the hunger of the Megawatt God.

For those of you who won't know how much power one megawatt is, it is enough to run 500 electric kettles.

Each of those stations produces 2000 megawatts, so one million kettles all on at the same time means lots of cups of tea.

Mick Rampton

Celebration of 1,000 U3As

U3A National Office has announced that a video recording celebrating 1,000 U3As is now available to view on YouTube Channel. It is also available on the home page of the website, www.u3a.org.uk

Tea and Coffee Rota

April 14th Pat and Gerry Thomas, Ann and Tom Dunn

May 12th Mary Mills, June Mundy, Ann Snowden, Alison Owen

June 9th Janet Rawlinson, Margaret Norton, Terry Gilmore, Glenys Gage

July 14th Irene Rodham, Bette Reid, Chris Hawley, Yvonne Moir

Please contact Wendy Kennett if you unable to fulfil this undertaking on 01522 721316.

Many thanks to all our regular contributors to this edition of "The Cliff Communiqué" and to Clive Morrison for his diligent proof reading.

Items for the next edition in August are welcome at any time. Please send as a word document to

Lis Ross: m.l.ross.uk@gmail.com It would be nice hear from some of our other groups too, or from any of our members with something to say!